

Home Depot, and all who made Renaissance Veterans Apartments possible, and I thank them for serving our community.

# REMEMBERING RICHARD TRUMKA

## HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, Richard Trumka dedicated his life to elevating workers in America. During his tenure as President of AFL-CIO, he proudly represented the interests of more than 12 million union members, fighting with unbridled passion and persistence to achieve fair hours, living wages, and better working conditions for all. Every American, union member or not, owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless advocacy and commitment to building a more equitable, more just workforce and economy.

Richard was a remarkable leader. This is evident from the enormous legacy of accomplishment he leaves behind and by the respect he garnered from the people he worked with and on behalf of. I had the immense privilege of knowing Richard on a personal level. And as exceptional of a leader as he was, he was an equally exemplary person—one who was deeply committed to his family, his community, and his country. That kind of selflessness defined Richard's life and career—that same spirit will define his legacy, too.

Richard was taken from us entirely too soon. And there are no words to ease the pain of this tragic loss, especially for his family and loved ones. But Richard will never truly leave us. His legacy will live on for generations to come, as a shining example of leadership and true public service. May his memory be a blessing.

KATE COOKE

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kate Cooke of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. Kate has exemplified these qualities and more with her work as a champion of small business. By helping to grow local small businesses, Kate has helped contribute to what makes Wheat Ridge unique while also benefiting our local economy and enhancing our community.

Congratulations to Kate Cooke for her contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF AVOCA BOROUGH ON ITS SESQUICENTENIAL

## HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Avoca Borough, Pennsylvania as its residents celebrate its 150th anniversary of incorporation.

On May 24, 1871, Avoca Borough, then known as Pleasant Valley, was officially incorporated after splitting from the nearby Pittston Township. Governed by three councilmen, Pleasant Valley was a booming community with four railroads, four churches, a board of trade, a school, and a fire company.

In 1889, residents wanted to move the Marr Post Office to a more central location in the community. With another borough in the Commonwealth already claiming the name Pleasant Valley, the United States Postal Service rejected their request, but the citizens were undeterred. They requested a name change to Avoca through the Luzerne County Court after the Avoca Hose Company. The court granted their request, and the name was officially changed.

The twentieth century saw growth and prosperity for Avoca, and as the population grew, so did the needs of the community. In 1905, a group of Avoca's most enterprising citizens met to discuss the need for a town bank, and on April 1, 1907, the First National Bank of Avoca opened on Main Street. In the early 1920s, schools were struggling to accommodate the number of students due to a steadily increasing population. In 1925, the Avoca School Board finalized plans for a four-year high school building, which was completed in time for the 1926 school year.

Avoca has always been home to patriotic Americans who valiantly served their country and sought to give back to their community. In 1931, a group of ex-service members organized the American Legion McPhillips-Widdall Post, and in 1946, Avoca veterans formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8335. Both organizations supported civic and athletic programs in Avoca.

Like many communities in the area, coal mining was the primary driver of the local economy. Many residents supported their families with careers in the mines, but the industry proved to be unsustainable. As the coal mining industry began to decline in the 1940s, the Wilkes-Barre-Scranton Airport was constructed, which would become a flourishing regional hub for travel throughout the Northeast. Through the 1950s, the anthracite coal mining industry continued its decline, forcing Avoca residents to relocate for more viable employment.

Today, Avoca remains a tight-knit community with thriving local businesses and a true small-town atmosphere. I am honored to join with Mayor Bob Mullen, Parade Grand Marshals Chris Van Luvender and Bob Matthews, Anniversary Committee President Kelly O'Brien, and all the residents of Avoca in celebrating the Borough's 150th anniversary. May the Borough continue to see growth and prosperity over the next 150 years.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I missed a vote on September 20, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 262.

EUGENE KAHNG

## HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eugene Kahng of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Annual Council Partnership Award.

The award is given to a member of the Wheat Ridge community that has demonstrated dedication, service and leadership to the local community. Eugene owns and manages the Colorado + brew pub in Wheat Ridge, which has become a favorite among Wheat Ridge residents since its opening. Eugene's contribution to the community will be recognized by members of the Wheat Ridge City Council during the awards reception.

Congratulations to Eugene Kahng for his contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

## HONORING JOHN AND TASHA HOLBEN AS IOWANS OF THE WEEK

### HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Tasha Holben, letter carriers for the United States Postal Service and proud union members, as Iowans of the Week. John has faced the rain, wind, heat, and snow for 37 years to ensure the residents of Council Bluffs receive their mail in a timely manner. His wife, Tasha, has done the same for 17 years. I am proud to honor their dedication and years of service.

Working families like John and Tasha's keep Iowa's communities strong. They put in the hours every week to get the job done, serving their neighbors and advocating for fellow workers along the way. As letter carriers in southwest Iowa—where so many families rely heavily on the mail for critical needs like prescription drugs, income, and supplies for their small business—the impact of their efforts is amplified.

John and Tasha are long-time members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC). John has been a member of the union his entire career, serving in various leadership roles for NALC Branch 314 such as president, officer, Sergeant at Arms, and now trustee. Tasha has also been an active member of Branch 314 and has served in several officer roles. As active union leaders, they've helped bargain collectively for decent wages

and benefits, safe working conditions, and a fair shake not only for themselves but also on behalf of their union brothers and sisters' families.

The Holben's drive to serve their community goes beyond their day-to-day duties. John and Tasha enjoy volunteering at the NALC's national food drive, which is held the second Saturday of May. Union members volunteer to pick up food and then transport it to local food pantries. Food pantries are always happy to see the influx of food in May, because often-times they see a slump in donations following winter holidays.

John additionally serves as a pastor at the Community of Christ Church in Council Bluffs, where he, Tasha, and the congregation help clean up their neighborhood every Earth Day. Instead of hosting a normal church service on the Sunday closest to Earth Day, members of the church walk around and pick up litter. They're usually able to fill up several garbage bags as they clean up yards, streets, and sidewalks.

As we celebrate Labor Day this week, I'm especially appreciative of John and Tasha, who have fought long and hard to maintain their union and ensure safe and reliable delivery of the mail to their neighbors. Through their activism and volunteer work, John and Tasha have made Council Bluffs a better place to live and work. Please join me in honoring John and Tasha as our Iowans of the Week.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed one vote on Monday, September 20, 2021. On Roll Call vote No. 262, S. 189, The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021, I would have voted YEA.

#### CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE'S COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Wheat Ridge's COVID-19 Response Team in Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge community who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on our local community, the entire country, and the rest of the world. The City's COVID Response Team is comprised of city staff and community members, including Steve Art, Amber Garrett, Diamante Hornyack, Allison Lewis, Robin Lofton, Cindy Peterson, Allison Scheck, and Sara Spaulding. As the city dealt with an unprecedented pandemic

and some of its darkest days, these men and women came to the aid of their community to help coordinate, develop and implement an effective and timely response to the various challenges and issues that have come up throughout the pandemic.

I thank every member of the COVID-19 Response Team for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during this trying time, and congratulations for receiving this award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN IRIARTE WHITT

#### HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John Iriarte Whitt who passed away on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

John had a decades long career in public service working as an important advisor to several of Guam's key elected leaders over the years including Gov. Ricardo Bordallo, Gov. Carl Gutierrez, Congressman Robert Underwood, and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo.

He was proud of his Chamoru heritage and was a longtime member of the Guam Society of America. He understood what it meant to be a Pacific Islander and lived his life serving others. He was a true patriot and was proud of his military service.

As a graduate of the Air Force Academy and a B-52 Pilot, John had a tactical mind, which he put to good use developing political strategies and policy not just for the benefit of the people of Guam, but also for American Samoa and the rest of the territories.

When I was first elected to Congress, John was still the Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Bordallo and was a great help to my freshman office. He was quick to volunteer his time and expertise not only with matters of policy, but with fostering a sense of camaraderie among the territorial delegation.

His passing is not just a loss for Guam, but for the Pacific region at large. He will be missed.

#### REMEMBERING DIPLOMAT GEORGE S. VEST

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and praise the contributions George S. Vest made to U.S. foreign policy. Vest had a long career as a U.S. diplomat during the Cold War. He died on August 24 at the age of 102.

Among Ambassador Vest's accomplishments was representing the United States while initiating the 35-country multilateral diplomatic process that led to the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in August 1975. This process continues to this day as the Organization

for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE, based largely in Vienna with 57 participating countries. History records the U.S. approach to those negotiations, a Soviet initiative, in late 1972 and 1973, as one of damage control, but Vest, his team and his successors did better than that. Working with our friends and allies in Europe, and engaging our Soviet and Warsaw Pact adversaries directly, they laid the groundwork for overcoming the East-West divide with a direct and frank dialogue based on a comprehensive definition of security that included respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. At the time, addressing human rights issues in other countries was something diplomats hoped to avoid; over time it became recognized as essential to their security and developing relations. The negotiations also produced confidence-building measures designed to lessen the risk of accidental war during a time of heightened tensions.

Although neither Vest nor most of his fellow diplomats may have foreseen its potential value, their work eventually helped bring the Cold War to a peaceful end 30 years ago, and the OSCE continues to serve as a forum for addressing tension and instability in Europe to this day.

Even in the darker days of the Cold War, this diplomatic process showed many courageous human rights advocates—private citizens—that they were not alone. It gave them the hope to keep fighting for a better world. As long as it remains true to its original Helsinki principles, it still does, and always will.

As the Co-Chairman of the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), better known as the Helsinki Commission, I believe it is important that we recognize George Vest's early efforts. The U.S. Helsinki Commission was founded in 1976 and has since helped to ensure that the multilateral diplomatic process Vest started reflects not only U.S. interests but those of any country—indeed any person—who values freedom and democracy. As the elections just held in Russia demonstrate, work still remains.

George Vest was a combat veteran of World War II and later served in various diplomatic positions beyond those related to Helsinki, including as advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the State Department's liaison to the Defense Department, spokesman for the State Department Under Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, assistant secretary of state for European affairs, and U.S. ambassador to the European Union. Vest ended his career at the State Department as director general of the Foreign Service, recruiting and selecting future American diplomats.

Our debt to this fine public servant, and his legacy of promoting peace over decades, is boundless. I thank his living sons, George S. Vest IV and Henry Vest, for their father's historic service to our country.

#### POOR BOY RODS OF WHEAT RIDGE, CO

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Poor Boy Rods of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of